5. Regarding the damage caused by the floods, the Government are awaiting a report on the subject from the revenue authorities.

6. Your representation with regard to police matters will receive due consideration.

7. The Director of Ayurveda is going to hold a local enquiry into the necessity for opening a *vishavaidasala* at Karinkal. Government have to await the result of his investigation.

8. The Administrative Board, Medical Services, has said that steps will be taken to provide a midwife for the Arumana dispensary as soon as possible.

9. The other points will all be borne in mind for consideration.

100. Needs of the Kuzhittura town.

MR. P. M. RAMAN PILLAI (*Member, Municipal Council, Kuzhittura*) said that the need for shifting the Munsiff's and Magistrate's courts from the present location was admitted on all hands. Had the recent floods risen by two feet more, the court-houses would have been under water and all the records damaged. The Member, speaking on behalf of the Municipality which brought Kuzhittura into prominence as a town, disagreed with the views expressed by Mr. R. Narayana Pillai, Member for Vilavankod taluk, regarding the new site. The courts should be located within the town itself and not transferred to arid and out of the way tracts. The Kuzhittura T. B. recently reduced to the second class and now costing Rs. 192 per annum for its upkeep could, with the addition of a few out-houses, be utilised for holding both the courts and the camp-shed could serve the purposes of the T. B. as well. In the alternative, a suitable site could be acquired at a moderate price on the southern side of the main road for putting up the necessary buildings.

The *satram* should be restored to its old use which it was fulfilling till 1097. The Kaliyal market necessitated the maintenance of a *satram*. The Section Office building, converted into a *satram*, would not be satisfactory as there was no adequate water supply near by.

Though the Kuzhittura Municipality were spending Rs. 7,000 out of an annual income of Rs. 7,500, it was not possible to undertake any public works as all the money was required for sanitation. A portion of the receipts derived by the Government from the toll-gate should be given to the Municipality which had contributed to a share of the traffic connected with the Municipal markets, and which was being obliged to incur expenditure on sanitation connected with the hospital, offices and markets. The outlay on maintenance of the road was less than the toll-gate receipts, less even than the receipts from one motor company like the Pioneer Bus Service which was paying Rs. 40 daily. The financial condition of the Municipality and the hardship that would be entailed by the imposition of another toll on the same road should be sympathetically considered and the Municipality given a share of the toll-gate receipts.

The Member then narrated the history of the agitation for the establishment of a Government hospital in the Vilavankod taluk. The subject was brought forward at the first session and repeated at eleven succeeding sessions. The existence of the Mission Hospital at Martandam was always urged as an obstacle. At one time, there was a proposal to remove the Parassala Government hospital to Kuzhittura, which would have made the hospitals on the M. S. Road, *viz.*, at Neyyattinkara, Kuzhittura, Tuckalai and Nagercoil almost equidistant and remedied the inadequacy of medical relief in an entire taluk. At the instance of a Christian Darbar Physician and owing to the influence of the Mission, the idea was mysteriously dropped ; and the construction of new buildings at Parassala now precluded the possibility of its revival. The Mission was asked to engage the services of a qualified medical officer and latterly an agreement, the terms of which were not known, had been entered into.

The people were anxious to have a Government hospital for a variety of reasons. In a Mission hospital, the poor people could not possibly receive equal treatment irrespective of considerations of caste, creed and religion. The belief was there, whatever the fact might be. A properly qualified doctor well acquainted with all the latest developments in the theory and practice of medicine and surgery

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could not be expected to be available from among the men trained at Neyyur whose qualifications were not known to be superior to those of the old Hospital Assistants. The hospital was ill-equipped and out of date in regard to surgical appliances. Only the poorest of the poor were given medicines free and such discrimination was influenced mainly by religious considerations. The prices were fixed by the Hospital authorities. The people of one taluk were thus denied the privilege enjoyed by people everywhere else in the State. Ward charges were levied. The hospital was run on commercial lines so as to be practically self-supporting. Quotations from the Bible were printed on the labels attached to bottles. Cases requiring medical examination in courts had now to be taken to Parassala or Tuckalai. It was rumoured that a building grant was to be given to the Hospital. This would be the death-knell of the people's hopes of having a Government hospital at Kuzhittura. These aspects should be carefully considered and a Government hospital established at Kuzhittura.

A dispensary, if opened at Putukkada, would serve the *pakuthies* of Ezhudesam, Arudesam, Painkulam, Killiyur, Midalam and other places in the southern portion of the taluk.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Raman Pillai, as a result of my visit to Kuzhittura during the floods, I had enquiries made, and as a consequence, the question of shifting the Munsiff's court and the Magistrate's court to another suitable building is under consideration. And possibly also, as a result of that change, the *sattram* may be set free. These are all matters engaging the attention of the Government.

2. With reference to the question of the toll-gate and toll charges, the question of the Municipality taking a share of toll collections has come up before the Government for consideration. I am not aware that the Municipality ever shared the high cost of maintaining that road. Nor am I aware that the Municipality contributed substantially or to any extent in the building of that very expensive bridge. Therefore, I do not think the Municipality is entitled to a share of the toll collections.

3. I have listened to what you have had to say about a hospital for Kuzhittura. Your remarks mainly consist in the disparagement of the existing aided institution at Martandam of which up till now I have never heard anything but high encomiums. Still, what you have said will be noted for consideration.

101. Needs of the Neyyattinkara taluk.

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Member, Neyyattinkara taluk, Group I*) said that the people of Neyyattinkara would feel grateful to the Government for the appointment of a special staff for the improvement and restoration of minor irrigation works which by long neglect and owing to encroachments had ceased to be useful. The progress of the work was now hampered by the strained relations between the local P. W. Sub-division officer and the contractors. The contractors were mostly foreigners with no means; work was delayed or was done perfunctorily; and the contractors had petitioned the Government and the Chief Engineer about the delay in checking work done and passing bills for payment. The Member presented a petition from the contractors and requested that an enquiry should be made to find out who was responsible for this sad state of affairs which should not be allowed to continue.

As early as 1064, the Government had spent Rs. 5,000 in connection with the construction of a dam at Aruvikkara in the Maranallur *pakuthi*, with a view to provide water for irrigation. The work was stopped immediately afterwards and had not yet been taken up again though the Government promised to do so in reply to repeated representations. The work should now be taken in hand.

The taluk contained, besides the M. S. Road, 125 miles of village roads and 34 miles of traces. Owing to the inadequacy of the funds allotted for maintenance or to failure to utilise properly the grants made, these communications were in a dangerous and deplorable condition. They were impossible for carts and pedestrians during the rainy season. They were called gravelled roads by courtesy. The maintenance now seemed to consist chiefly in taking the loose sand from the side drains and

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